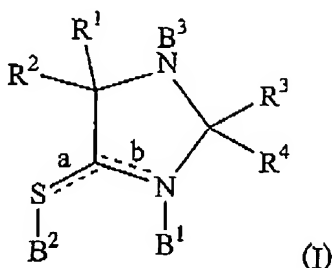


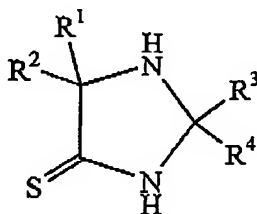
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)



wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of B¹ and B² is ~~-CHR⁵-CHR⁶-C(Y)ZR⁷ or hydrogen~~ and the other is absent; B³ is ~~-C(W)NHR⁸ or hydrogen~~; ~~provided that one of B¹, B² and B³ is not hydrogen~~; R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or R¹ and R², or R³ and R⁴, combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; Y and W are is O or S; Z is O, S or NR⁹; R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl; R⁶ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl; R⁷ and R⁹ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; ~~and R⁸ is alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl~~;

said method comprising adding to an imidazolidinethione having formula



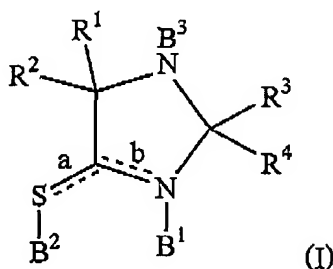
one of (i) $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$; and (ii) $\text{R}^8\text{N}-\text{C}-\text{W} \text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$ to form a reaction mixture; wherein the reaction mixture is substantially free of solvent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ is added to the imidazolidinethione; R^5 is hydrogen; and R^6 is hydrogen or methyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising an alkali metal carbonate in an amount less than 10 mole % relative to $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$.

Claim 4 has been canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)

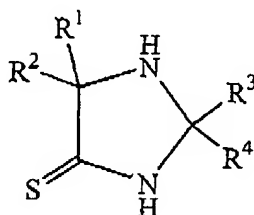


wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of B^1 and B^2 is $-\text{CHR}^5-\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{Y})\text{ZR}^7$, $-\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}-\text{NHR}^{12}$ or hydrogen and the other is absent; B^3 is $-\text{C}(\text{W})\text{NHR}^8$ or hydrogen; provided that one of B^1 , B^2 and B^3 is not hydrogen; R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or R^1 and R^2 , or R^3 and R^4 , combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; Y and W are O or S ; Z is O , S or NR^9 ; R^5 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl; R^6 is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl; R^7 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are independently

hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; and R^8 and R^{12} independently are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;

said method comprising steps of:

(a) preparing an imidazolidinethione having formula



by combining a cyanide source, a sulfide salt, and at least one ketone or aldehyde;

and (b) adding to the imidazolidinethione, without isolation of the imidazolidinethione, one of (i) $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$; (ii) $\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{11}\text{C}=\text{O}$ and R^{12}NH_2 ; (iii) $\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{11}\text{C}=\text{NR}^{12}$; and (iv) $\text{R}^8\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{W}$ $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 in which $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^7$ is added to the imidazolidinethione; R^5 is hydrogen; and R^6 is hydrogen or methyl.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.